

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 CU-02 DHA-02 ORM-02 /093 W

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R 121917Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6754

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 00938

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, GE, FR, GW

SUBJECT: GDR FONMIN FISCHER'S VISIT TO PARIS

REF: PARIS 771 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GDR FONMIN FISCHER MADE FIRST, MODESTLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO PARIS JANUARY 6-7. DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED TOUR D'HORIZON OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. ON BILATERAL FRONT THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO INCREASE TRADE AND TO EXPAND CERTAIN CULTURAL EXCHANGES. SAUVAGNARGUES WILL MAKE RETURN VISIT BERLIN WITHIN YEAR. EXCHANGES GDR-FRENCH CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WERE REPORTED REFTEL.

2. GDR FONMIN FISCHER, WHO HAD BEEN ANGLING FOR VISIT TO FRANCE FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME (PARIS 31225), FINALLY ACHIEVED HIS WISH. FOR THIS FIRST GO-AROUND, FRENCH COULD NOT BRING THEMSELVES TO GRANT HIM INVITATION FOR OFFICIAL VISIT, PARTLY BECAUSE THIS WOULD HAVE VIRTUALLY REQUIRED ELYSEE RECEPTION. FISCHER'S "WORKING VISIT" JANUARY 6 AND 7 NEVERTHELESS REPRESENTED A CERTAIN BREAKTHROUGH IN FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE EVOLVED VERY SLOWLY SINCE THEIR ESTABLISHMENT IN 1972. THUS, IN ADDITION TO TWO LONG MEETINGS WITH SAUVAGNARGUES, FISCHER WAS RECEIVED BY CHIRAC AND WAS HONORED BY APPEARANCE OF SCATTERING OF SENIOR FRENCH PERSONALITIES, INCLUDING COUVE DE MURVILLE, AT GDR RECEPTION. LATTER, IT MIGHT BE ADDED, WAS MARKED BY NOTICEABLE ABSENCE OF CONSIDERABLE PART OF PARIS DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ALTHOUGH FRG CHARE APPEARED.

3. ACCORDING QUAI DIRECTOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PLAISANT, WHO SAT IN ON GREATER PART DISCUSSIONS, FISHER'S TWO MEETINGS WITH SAUVAGNARGUES WERE LONG, INTENSE, BUSINESSLIKE AND "ALMOST CORDIAL." SAUVAGNARGUES THOUGHT FISCHER TO BE "CAPABLE MAN" WHO "UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES" MADE "RATHER GOOD IMPRESSION." FRENCH FOR THEIR PART, HAVING DECIDED TO RECEIVE FISCHER, DID THEIR BEST TO BE "CIVILIZED AND PRAGMATIC."

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4. DISCUSSION WITH SAUVAGNARGUES JANUARY 6 WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. ACCORDING PLAISANT'S ACCOUNT, FOLLOWING WERE MAJOR POINTS:

A. CSCE: FISCHER AGREED TO SAUVAGNARGUES SUGGESTIONS THAT HELSINKI TEXT WAS "POSITIVE" DEVELOPMENT WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO ENDING EAST-WEST ARGUMENTS OVER GERMANY -- EXCEPT FOR BERLIN, WHICH WAS SPECIAL SITUATION.

TION, AND FOR THOSE QUESTIONS ON WHICH "ONE HAS AGREED TO DISAGREE." IN ANY CASE, CSCE TEXT SHOULD BE SEEN AS A WHOLE. BEYOND THIS EXCHANGE OF GENERALITIES FISCHER DWELT BRIEFLY ON "WELL-KNOWN IMPORTANCE GDR ATTACHES TO CSCE PRINCIPLES" AND NOTED ITS HOPES FOR AMELIORATION ECONOMIC RELATIONS UNDER BASKET II. BOTH SIDES MADE EFFORT KEEP TONE OF THIS EXCHANGE POLITE AND CHEERFUL.

B. THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE: FISCHER STRESSED GDR'S KEEN INTEREST AND NOTED THAT THE UN WOULD BE BETTER FRAMEWORK THAN SUCH A SPECIAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS OF GLOBAL CONCERN. SAUVAGNARGUES AGREED TO IMPORTANCE OF UN, BUT SAID IT OFTEN PRODUCED CONFRONTATIONS. A RESTRICTED ORGAN, SUCH AS NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE, THEREFORE SEEMED BETTER SUITED.

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 00938

(PLAISANT ADDED THAT HE WAS STRUCK BOTH BY EVIDENT
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IMPORTANCE FISCHER SEEMED TO ATTACH HIS CIEC POINT, BUT
ALSO BY HIS POOR TECHNICAL GRASP OF ISSUE).

C. NEAR EAST: COMMENTING ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO NEAR
EAST, FISCHER VOLUNTEERED THAT NEITHER SYRIANS NOR
ARAFAT WANT TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION. THE IRAQIS,
ON OTHER HAND, WHILE VOICING SIMILAR SENTIMENTS, DID
NOT, IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH FISCHER, EXCLUDE POSSI-
BILITY OF RENEWED MILITARY ACTION. SAUVAGNARGUES
THOUGHT THIS WENT A SHADE BEYOND WHAT IRAQIS HAD SAID
TO FRENCH. IN ANY CASE, BOTH AGREED THAT THERE HAD
BEEN A CERTAIN EVOLUTION IN ARAB THINKING, SINCE ALL OF
THEM, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF IRAQ, NOW AGREED ON
IMPORTANCE OF REACHING A SOLUTION. FISCHER SAID, AND
SAUVAGNARGUES AGREED, THAT ISRAEL SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THIS SITUATION "BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

D. INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS: FISCHER ARGUED ONCE AGAIN
THAT THE SOONER THE FRG ABANDONED ITS CLAIM REGARDING
SPECIAL CHARACTER FRG-GDR RELATIONS, THE SOONER THESE
RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE. THE GDR-SOVIET TREATY OF
OCTOBER 7 HAD NOW PUT END TO IDEA OF GERMAN REUNIFICA-
TION -- BARRING A REUNIFICATION BY FORCE ("MIT FEUER
UND SCHWERT"). SAUVAGNARGUES COUNTERED THAT THIS WAS
CERTAINLY ONE AREA ON WHICH ONE SHOULD AGREE TO DIS-
AGREE. APART FROM THIS BROAD EXCHANGE FISCHER RAISED
ONLY ONE SPECIFIC ISSUE IN VOICING DISCREET CONCERN
OVER POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT ELECTION OF BERLIN REPRESEN-
TATION TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

E. CYPRUS AND CHINA: IN ADDITION TO INCONSEQUENTIAL

EXCHANGE ON CYPRUS, THE MINISTERS ENDED WITH BRIEF BANTER ABOUT CHINA. IN RESPONSE TO SAUVAGNARGUES' REPORT ON CHINESE VIEWS ON DETENTE, FISCHER SAID CHINESE WERE SIMPLY NOT IN TOUCH WITH REALITY, AND MUSED THAT CHINESE OFTEN SEEMED TO KNOW "BETTER THAN WE" WHAT GERMAN PEOPLE WANT (AN EVIDENT ALLUSION TO CHINESE CLAIMS THAT GERMANS WANT REUNIFICATION).

5. BILATERAL DISCUSSION JANUARY 7 WERE SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS:
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A. FRENCH-GDR ECONOMIC RELATIONS: THE FRENCH SIDE AGREED TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO INCREASE BADLY LAGGING FRENCH-GDR ECONOMIC RELATIONS IF POSSIBLE BY A FACTOR OF TWO OR THREE. HOWEVER, THE SIDES DID NOT REACH SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS, WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY BE WORKED OUT IN SUBSEQUENT VISITS BY ECONOMIC REPS. FOR PRESENT, PLAISANT SAID FRENCH REMAINED GUARDED, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO SELL GDR THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY GDR EVIDENTLY WANTS.

B. CULTURAL RELATIONS: IN ONE OF MORE PIQUANT EXCHANGES SAUVAGNARGUES THEN REMINDED FISCHER THAT FRENCH HAD SENT GDR SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR A CULTURAL AGREEMENT OVER A YEAR AND A HALF AGO WITHOUT RECEIVING A REPLY. SAUVAGNARGUES DID NOT PRESS THE POINT, SO AS NOT TO BECOME DEMANDEUR, BUT SUGGESTED THAT SIDES DO FOCUS ON ACHIEVING SOME PRACTICAL RESULTS. AS CONSEQUENCE, UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED TO INCREASE TEACHING OF FRENCH AND GERMAN IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES; AND TO INCREASE EXCHANGE OF MUTUAL SALE OF BOOKS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FILMS.

C. HUMANITARIAN CASES: SAUVAGNARGUES ALSO RAISED FRENCH LIST OF SOME 150 HUMANITARIAN CASES. FISCHER WAS VAGUE BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THEM.

D. FUTURE VISITS: IT WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT QUAI'S DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS FRANCOIS DE LABOULAYE WOULD VISIT BERLIN IN COMING MONTHS. SAUVAGNARGUES ALSO HIMSELF WOULD MAKE HIS RETURN VISIT TO BERLIN LATER THIS YEAR.

6. DISCUSSION OF FRENCH-GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL.
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